

Navigating the New Mexico State Legislature for Your Practice

New Mexico Academy of Family Physicians
Winter Refresher, February 24, 2024



Topics to be covered

- NMAFP 2024 member survey on legislative issues
- Background of 2024 NM Legislative Session
- Doctor of the Day program by NMAFP
- Legislative issues from the just completed session
- Details on our first priority bills
- Details on our second priority bills
- Prospects for our 2025 state legislative agenda
- National opportunities and threats

NMAFP 2024 member survey on legislative issues

- Raise Medicaid payment to clinicians rate to 150% of Medicare rate: member agreement 98%
- Rural health delivery fund continuation: member agreement 98%
- Expand primary care residency training slots: member agreement 93%; (concern: are there enough resources (e.g. outside faculty/preceptors))?
- Global budgets and health care cost drivers analysis continuation: member agreement 83%
- Expand firearm safety measures: member agreement 87% (one member cautioned about banning firearms in general)
- Authorize NM oversight of mergers & acquisitions of health care entities: member agreement 84%
- Treatment for adolescent opioid use disorder in state-funded facilities (e.g. buprenorphine): member agreement 83%
- Note: a number of members offered to help with specific issues for future development

Background of the 2024 NM legislative session

- Legislators: House 45 Democrat, 25 Republican; Senate 27 Democrat, 15 Republican
- 30 day session for budget and taxes primarily with a few others on Governor's call ("germane")
- Health committees in each chamber get first hearing on most health related bills; most bills heard by two committees before moving to the other chamber
- Session ends on the stroke of noon on the last day, which was February 15, 2024. Many bills left on the chamber floor without a vote. 72 bills passed of the 658 submitted
- Governor has 20 days to sign or pocket veto bills, i.e. by March 6. She may line item veto in the budget bill HB 2.
- Excellent navigation tool: nmlegis.gov

Doctor of the Day program by NMAFP

with support from the NM Medical Society

- Service: Provides health care to legislators and staff on site by volunteer physicians, mostly NMAFP members
- Advocacy: DOD volunteers also listen to committee hearings and may testify on their own behalf or for NMAFP consistent with our stance
- Educational for all, on several levels
- 13 Docs covered 11 days this year; some residents from Santa Fe and Las Cruces came with faculty. Thank you to all of them for excellent service and advocacy.

Our first priority bills

- Firearm safety: two bills passed. Expect governor will sign. (Five bills did not pass)
- Raise Medicaid payment rate to 150% of Medicare's rate for primary care, maternal and child care, behavioral health care services, part of budget bill HB 2. Expect governor to sign
- Health Care Consolidation oversight by state passed. Expect governor to sign
- Treatment with MOUD of juveniles in state-funded facilities; "not germane", not heard
- Global budget analysis continuation (through LHHS Committee during the interim), through "Junior Bill"
- Expansion of \$ for Rural Health Care Delivery fund passed last year. \$ in HB 2?
- Expand health care workforce, pay preceptors. \$ in HB 2?

Our second priority bills

- Prescription drug price transparency; passed. Expect governor will sign
- Step therapy exception for drugs for tx of cancer, autoimmune disorder, and SUD; passed. Expect governor will sign
- Prescribing psychologist scope of practice expansion, for injectables; passed. Expect governor will sign
- Hospital tax to benefit most hospitals in NM by leveraging Medicaid (4:1 match), priority given to rural hospitals; passed. Expect governor will sign
- Health professional loan repayment expansion; \$10M in HB 2. Expect governor will sign
- Health care insurance subsidies (on BeWell NM exchange) extension; passed. Expect governor will sign
- Health Care Authority Department modifications; passed. Expect governor will sign. This clarifies last year's authorization of this new department. (HCAD replaces and expands prior Human Services Dept.)

Other bills of interest

- Acute care facilities emergency subsidies; passed. Expect governor will sign
- Paid FMLA; tabled on House floor
- Increase retail alcohol tax; died in committee (competing bills, unable to compromise over regressive tax)
- Fentanyl OD and prevention month; Memorial passed (asks governor to establish)
- Prenatal drug exposure task force in DOH; Memorial passed (asks governor to establish)
- Housing funding for homelessness, in HB 2?

Prospects for 2025 state legislative agenda

- Fund more primary care residency slots for NM. We intend to work on this in the interim.
- Further increase in Medicaid payments to clinicians. We will work on this.
- Alcohol tax increase to fund prevention and treatment
- Firearm safety, various measures
- Climate change programs for education and health
- MOUD for juveniles in state-funded facilities
- Salaries for our legislators?

National opportunities & threats

- Medicare payments to clinicians; reverse the proposed 3.5% reduction
- Medicaid waivers that benefit unique state initiatives
- Prior authorization improvements?
- Surprise billing loophole closure, and modification of mediation process?
- More price controls on Rx's (10 drugs so far this year)?
- Challenges to 2023 NM statues that protect reproductive and transgender care?
- Medicaid expansion under the ACA (in the 10 states who haven't already), by public demand

Questions?

Thank you !